

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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Report

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drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 292/72) for a decision on opening negotiations for an agreement between the European Economic Community and third countries concerning the system applicable to international road passenger transport by coach and bus

Rapporteur: Mr F.G. van der GUN

By letter of 6 February 1973 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 75 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on opening negotiations for an agreement between the European Economic Community and third countries concerning the system applicable to international road passenger transport by coach and bus.

On 12 February 1973 the Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport as the committee responsible.

The Committee on Regional Policy and Transport appointed Mr van der GUN rapporteur on 3 April 1973. It discussed this proposal at its meeting of 23 May 1973.

At this meeting, the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

The following were present: Mr James HILL, Chairman; Mr KOLLWELTER and Mr SEEFELD, Vice-Chairmen; Mr van der GUN, rapporteur; Mr AIGNER, Mr BEYLOT (deputizing for Mr BOUSQUET), Mr BERTRAND (deputizing for Mr PÊTRE), Lord BRECON, Mr COLIN, Mr DELMOTTE, Mr DURIEUX, Mr EISMA, Mr FABBRINI, Mr GIRAUD, Mr GULDBERG, Mr HERBERT, Mr JARROT, Mr JOHNSTON, Mr LIOGIER, Mr MITTERDORFER, Mr MURSCH, Mr NOË, Mr POUNDER, Mr SCHWABE.

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A.

The Committee on Regional Policy and Transport hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the European Parliament's opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on opening negotiations for an agreement between the European Economic Community and third countries concerning the system applicable to international road passenger transport by coach and bus.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM (72) 1685 final);
 - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 292/72);
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport (Doc. 82/73);
1. Considers that the development of road passenger traffic between the Community and certain third countries makes it advisable to adopt standard rules applicable over the entire distances travelled;
 2. Considers that, since common rules already exist for passenger transport within the Community, it would be advisable to extend their scope where possible;
 3. ~~Approves~~, therefore, the proposed Council decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with certain third countries with a view to reaching agreement on this matter;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this motion for a resolution and its committee's report to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

B.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Council has laid down common rules for 'international road transport of passengers by coach and bus' in Regulation No. 117/66/EEC of 28 July 1966¹ and in a number of implementing regulations².

2. The steady growth of road passenger traffic between the Community and certain third countries shows that these rules must be extended to cover transport to or from those countries or in transit through them.

Regulation No. 117/66/EEC made express provision, in Article 4(2), for entering into any negotiations with third countries that may be found necessary for the purpose of implementing this regulation.

3. Such negotiations are necessary above all for road passenger services in transit through the territory of third States. The negotiations should aim at allowing free passage and recognition of the control documents drawn up in accordance with Community regulations.

4. Article 4(3) of Regulation No. 117/66/EEC also provides for the extension of this regulation to the international transport of passengers by road to or from third countries.

The part of the journey that takes place on Community territory could be brought under Community regulations. But it would be more rational to apply standard rules for the entire journey (in particular, this would facilitate administrative controls and formalities).

Negotiations are also required, therefore, to reach an agreement that will as far as possible extend the Community provisions already in force to traffic with third countries.

5. Since common rules already cover this field, Member States acting individually or collectively can no longer contract obligations with third countries affecting these rules. The Community has, therefore, sole power to sign an agreement on the system of international road passenger transport.

¹ OJ No 147, 9.8.1966

² Regulations No 1016/68, OJ No L 173, 22.7.1968
No 516/72, OJ No L 67, 20.3.1972
No 517/72, OJ No L 67, 20.3.1972
No 1172/72 OJ No L 134, 12.6.1972

6. The proposed Council decision submitted to us¹ aims at authorizing the Commission to enter into the necessary negotiations to reach an agreement on laying down standard rules applicable to traffic with third countries or in transit through them.

7. Article 1 restricts this authorization to nine countries² which, on the basis of their geographic situation or the intensity of traffic, have a particular interest in road passenger transport between their country and Community countries.

Article 2 lays down the procedure for such negotiations.

8. The Committee on Transport has no objections against the proposed decision aimed at resolving certain problems which arise in passenger traffic between the Community and third countries, namely, defining the various types of passenger service and installing them, conditions of use, controls and sanctions, etc.

Besides, if standard rules are laid down, by international agreement, on the basis of Community regulations, this will, in certain cases, facilitate the application of these regulations.

¹ Doc. 292/72

² Austria, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Yugoslavia